

**REMARKS**

Claim 51 is amended. Claims 51-56 are pending in the application.

Claims 51-56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida, U.S. Patent No. 6,271,058; in view of Ohgiyama, U.S. Patent No. 6,309,909; and Toy, U.S. Patent No. 5,956,576. The Examiner is reminded by direction to MPEP § 2143 that a proper obviousness rejection has the following three requirements: 1) there must be some suggestion or motivation to modify or combine reference teachings; 2) there must be a reasonable expectation of success; and 3) the combined references must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. Claims 51-56 are allowable over the combination of Yoshida, Ohgiyama and Toy for at least the reason that the references, individually or as combined, fail to disclose or suggest each and every limitation in any of those claims.

As amended independent claim 51 recites forming a lid stock material into a shape of a bar having a length, having a first side, having a second side opposing the first side, and having a groove which extends along the first side. Claim 51 additionally recites that the first and second sides have substantially equivalent widths and that after forming the shape the bar is cut along the length to form a plurality of separated microelectronic lids. The amendment to claim 51 is supported by the specification at, for example, Figs. 5 and 6 and the accompanying text at page 3, line 35 through page 4, line 14 and Figs. 13-14 and the accompanying text at page 5, line 35 through page 6, line 1. Yoshida discloses a join means 1 having a plurality of legs for fixing to a board (col. 7, ll. 50-55). As indicated by Yoshida at column 8, lines 53-54, laterally extending portions on a front side of join means 1 are utilized during joining to a fixing pad 2 (see Figs. 8-13 and the accompanying text). Yoshida does not disclose or suggest the claim 51 recited forming a lid stock material

having a first side and an opposing second side where the first and second sides have substantially equivalent widths and where a groove extends along the first side, or the recited cutting the bar along the length to form a plurality of separated microelectronic lids. Accordingly, independent claim 51 is not rendered obvious by Yoshida.

As indicated at pages 2-3 of the present action, Ohgiyama is relied upon as showing cutting a bar into a plurality of lids, and Toy is relied upon as disclosing electroplating with nickel. However, as combined with Yoshida, the cutting of a bar into a plurality of lids as disclosed by Ohgiyama and the electroplating disclosed by Toy does not contribute towards suggesting the claim 51 recited forming a lid stock material into a shape of a bar having a length and having a first side and opposing second side of substantially equivalent widths where a groove extends along the first side. Accordingly, independent claim 51 is not rendered obvious by the cited combination of Yoshida, Toy and Ohgiyama and is allowable over these references.

Dependent claims 52-56 are allowable over the combination of Yoshida, Ohgiyama and Toy for at least the reason that they depend from allowable base claim 51.

For the reasons discussed above, claims 51-56 are allowable. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests formal allowance of such claims in the Examiner's next action.

Respectfully submitted,

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